



Growth Management Services

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Helping Washington communities manage growth and protect important resources

Description

Growth Management Services, a program of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED), provides assistance and guidance for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). It assists cities and counties subject to a full set of GMA planning requirements in planning for their future, including how they will provide facilities, services, and housing consistent with the goals of the GMA. Technical and financial resources are available from Growth Management Services to help these fully planning local governments develop county-wide policies, comprehensive plans, and development regulations, including critical areas ordinances. The program also assists counties and cities planning only for resource lands and critical areas to meet their GMA requirements.



Growth Management Services provides grants, technical assistance, review of plans and regulations, workshops, and the Short Course on Local Planning. The course is offered for planning commissioners, elected officials, and citizens.

Background

Growth Management Services has been providing assistance to local governments since 1990 when the GMA was passed. Staff – in consultation with local governments, other state agencies, and the public – has prepared minimum guidelines for resource lands and critical areas and procedural criteria for carrying out the GMA, including how to incorporate the best available science into local ordinances. Guidebooks on chapters of the comprehensive plan – including land use, transportation, capital facilities, and rural areas for counties – also have been developed. See the Web site at www.ocd.wa.gov/growth for a list of these and other publications, including Growth Management Services' quarterly newsletter called *About Growth*.



The State's Role

The state contributes to growth management planning and implementation in many ways, including grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions for GMA planning. Growth



Management Services' primary role is to assist and enable local governments to design their own programs to fit local needs. Its staff also works with other governmental organizations, citizen and interest groups, business organizations, and the environmental community to carry out the GMA.

Growth Management Services coordinates other state agencies that are also involved in review of comprehensive plans and development regulations. In addition, agencies – such as the Washington Department of Ecology – have grant programs that help local governments achieve GMA-related goals and policies.

Publications Available

Publications available from CTED include: *Achieving Growth Management Goals: Local Success Stories*, *The Growth Management Act: An Overview*, *About Growth*, and guidebooks on preparing comprehensive plan chapters and other growth management topics.

Photos: CTED/Rita R. Robison

For More Information

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